

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Southern District of Georgia

Post Office Box 8970 Savannah, GA 31412 (912) 652-4422 / FAX (912) 652-4805 100 Bull Street Savannah, GA 31401

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CONTACT: Ed

Edmund A. Booth, Jr. First Assistant U.S. Attorney

(706) 724-0517

GYMNASTICS INSTRUCTOR INDICTED ON ADDITIONAL CHARGES RELATING TO THE EXPLOITATION OF MINOR CHILDREN

SAVANNAH, GA: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that on September 15, 2006, a federal grand jury sitting in Savannah returned a nineteen-count superseding indictment against William Allen McCabe, who recently operated the Savannah Metro Gymnastics facility located in Rincon, Georgia. The initial indictment was returned in June, 2006, and charged McCabe with possessing child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B), and making false statements to an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001. The superseding indictment, unsealed today during McCabe's arraignment before United States Magistrate Judge G.R. Smith, contained seventeen additional charges, including ten counts of Transporting Child Pornography in Interstate Commerce, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(1), three counts of Sexual Exploitation of Children, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b), one count of Enticing a Minor to Engage in Illegal Sexual Activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b), one count of Transportation of a Minor to Engage In Illegal Sexual Activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2423(a), and one count of Travel with Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct, in violation of

18 U.S.C. § 2423(b). McCabe was also indicted on one count of witness tampering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(3).

After the initial indictment was returned in June 2006, the government sought pre-trial detention for McCabe which was granted by the court. McCabe remains in federal custody pending trial.

If convicted, McCabe faces a maximum penalty of not less than fifteen (15) and not more than thirty (30) years imprisonment with respect to one of the counts charging him with Sexual Exploitation of Children; not less than ten (10) and not more than twenty (20) years imprisonment for two of the counts charging him with Sexual Exploitation of Children; not less than five (5) and not more than thirty (30) years imprisonment for the Transportation of a Minor with Intent to Engage in Illegal Sexual Activity charge and the Enticing a Minor to Engage in Illegal Sexual Activity charge; not more than thirty (30) years imprisonment for Traveling with the Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct; not less than five (5) and not more than twenty (20) years imprisonment for the Transportation of Child Pornography charge; not more than ten (10) years imprisonment for the Possession of Child Pornography charge and the Witness Tampering charge; and not more than five (5) years imprisonment for the False Statements charge. In addition, the charges relating to Possession of Child Pornography, Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Illegal Sexual Activity, Transportation of a Minor with Intent to Engage in Illegal Sexual Activity, Travel with Intent to Engage in Illegal Sexual Activity, Transportation or Shipping of Child Pornography, and Sexual Exploitation of Children permit the court to impose life-time supervised release. The other charges carry the potential for up to three years of

supervised release. Each of the charges also includes potential fines of up to \$250,000 and a special assessment of \$100.

Ms. Wood stressed that an indictment is only an accusation, and it is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the Government's burden to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The case was investigated by Special Agent Joshua Hayes from the Savannah office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent Thomas West from the Savannah office of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Special Agent John Barry of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and detectives from the Rincon, Georgia Police Department. The United States is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen K. Marsh.

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